drawing Long Term Development Programme (LTDP) to put in action four year roll-on Plan under which elite sportspersons selected on the basis of their performance are put through scientifically designed continuous training programme. Coaches are also being imparted training from time to time. In addition to this, talented sportspersons are being inducted in SAI Sports Promotional Schemes at Sub-Junior, Junior and Senior Level.

Setting up of Village Sports Academies

3271. SHRI N.R. GOVIND. RAJAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether traditional sports of Indian Origin (Kabaddi, Kho-Kho etc.) are vanishing gradually as they are not given priority;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to provide opportunities to rural sport persons at National and International level by setting up Village Sport Academy and provide them training and other facilities; and

(d) the details of the funds allocated for sports events of Indian Origin during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) 'Sports' is a State Subject and promotion of sports including the indigenous and regional games in the responsibility of respective States, various National Sports Federations and State Sports Associations within their respective jurisdiction. However, the Government of India through its various schemes and the schemes of Sports Authority of India (SAI) augments the efforts of the State Government and National Sports Federations in promotion of sports all over the country. National Sports Policy, 2001, *inter-alia* states that indigenous games will be promoted through schemes related to rural sports. Rural Sports Tournament scheme includes traditional games like Archery, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Tug of War and Wrestling. Under the various schemes of Sports Authority of India, traditional Indian sports like Archery, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Wrestling etc. are also being promoted.

The Government of India through its scheme of'Assistance to National Sports Federations' gives financial assistance to recognized National Sports Federations as per the provisions of the scheme. Disciplines recognized

for this purpose, so far, by the Government of India also include indigenous games like Kabadd:, Kho-Kho, Tug of War and Atya Patya.

(c) The Ministry has no proposal for setting up of Village Sports Academy, However, the rural sportspersons are provided opportunities under the various scheme of the Ministry as well as Sports Authority of India(SAI). Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is implementing a scheme of'Incentives for Promotion of Sports Activities' under which Rural Sports Programme is one of the components. Rural Sports Programme being implemented through Sports Authority of India (SAI), provides for grant-in-aid for organizing
District level, State and National Level tournaments. In addition, Sports Authority of India implements following schemes for spotting, nurturing and developing talented sportspersons to excel at international level:—

1. National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC)
2. Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC)
3. SAI Training Centre (STC)
4. Centre of Excellence (COX)
5. Special Area Games(SAG)

(d) Funds are not allocated State-wise.

Upgradation of Selection System

3272. SHRI S.M.LALJAN BASHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that genuine sports persons are not getting a chance to compete in various national games and sports events in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the system of selection of players in various State by their respective games or sports association is totally tainted and leads to all forms of favouritism;

(c) whether Government have found a way to upgrade such systems of selections in various States;

(d) if so, the details of the upgradation done to select the best sportsmen and talent for all games in the country; and